

Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: The Unfortunate Outcome of John the Baptist

Week 1: A Voice that Would Not Be Silenced

Luke 3:1–20.

John was, in every fiber of his being, a counter-cultural prophet who refused to be shaped by the world he was sent to confront.

Luke 3:2

The word of God—the sovereign, authoritative, history-shaping word of the Almighty—came to a man in the desert.

God has always had a habit of bypassing the centers of human power & speaking to the margins.

Isaiah 40:3: Before the King arrives, something has to change in you.

Luke 3:7 WHY?

He sees the performance of religion without the reality of transformation.

John tells them: *None of that will save you if your life has not changed.*

Luke 3:8. Not feelings or rituals of repentance. *Fruit.* Evidence. Changed behavior.

What is John doing? He is not offering a spiritual transaction. He is demanding personal transformation. Real repentance is ethical & relational—not merely emotional & ceremonial.

Luke 3:15: *Could this be the One?*

This is often the moment when the platform becomes confused with the purpose.

Luke 3:16

John: I am not the destination. I am the signpost. I am not the feast—I am the table setting. John: *I exist to point to someone greater than myself.*

John understood that his success was measured not by the size of his following, but by the faithfulness of his pointing.

The comma between **Luke 3:19-20** is a theological hinge. On one side is faith-fulness & On the other is suffering. John spoke truth to power. And power struck back.

Courageous faith speaks truth even when the cost is high.

Is there a Herod in my world that the Word of God is calling me to confront?

1. Where in your life are you being called to speak truth, but fear the cost? John refused to let fear determine what faithfulness required.
2. Are you producing fruit that matches your repentance—or is your faith a performance? The fruit reveals the root.
3. Are you pointing people to Jesus, or are you building your own platform? Are the people around you—in your sphere of influence—encountering Jesus through you, or are they encountering you?

The truth of God: you can imprison the man, but you cannot imprison the message.

Courageous faith always matters, even when it does not produce the outcome we expected, even when it lands us in places we never wanted to go.